

1 By

Waiting

H.S.R. No. 491

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5 R E S O L U T I O N  
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7 WHEREAS, On October 1, 1968, the State of Texas lost an  
8 illustrious gentleman, scholar, former lawmaker, banker, rancher,  
9 historian, and courageous officer of World War I with the death of  
10 the Honorable Jessy Franklin Gray of Three Rivers; and

11 WHEREAS, A member of the House of Representatives for four  
12 Texas Legislatures, beginning in 1945 and extending through 1954,  
13 this distinguished Texan was a modest man, who gave unstintingly  
14 of himself to every endeavor with which he was associated, and  
15 honors came to him from many areas; and

16 WHEREAS, The Mayor of Paris honored him with the Saint  
17 Mihiel Medal for services rendered for the French liberation in  
18 1918; in 1945, Governor Coke R. Stevenson honored Jessy Gray by  
19 naming him a Commissioner of The Texas Centennial of Statehood;  
20 while a member of the House of Representatives, he was honored by  
21 the Southwestern Medical Foundation of Dallas with a certificate  
22 of merit; he was also honored with certificates from the Lions  
23 Club, both as a past president of the club and by designating him  
24 to honorary life membership; and he was honored by his community  
25 with the outstanding citizen award for 1965; and

26 WHEREAS, He belonged to the Masonic Lodge, A.F. & A.M., was a  
27 member of the Lions Club, and was a Commander of the Veterans of  
28 Foreign Wars and the American Legion; he was a member of the  
29 Methodist Church and served as district trustee in 1967 and 1968;  
30 he was named King of the Three Rivers 50th Anniversary Celebration  
31 held July 5-6, 1963, and the J. F. Gray Memorial Homes, housing  
32 units for low income families in Three Rivers, were named in his  
33 honor; and

34 WHEREAS, Jessy Franklin Gray was born in the Fairview  
35 Community of Wilson County, Texas, on December 5, 1895, the fourth  
36 in the family of six children; he was the son of A. O. Gray and  
37 Mary Ellen Tullis Gray, and he was of the school which loved,  
38 respected, and honored his parents; and

39 WHEREAS, He was educated in public schools at Fairview,  
40 Saspamco, Sayers, and old Main Avenue High School in San Antonio,  
41 and his education at The University of Texas was terminated by  
42 World War I; and

43 WHEREAS, He taught school for five years, first at Karnes  
44 City, then in Frio County, and later at Oakville, then the largest  
45 school in Live Oak County; he became superintendent of the Three  
46 Rivers High School in 1919; earlier, in May 1917, he resigned his  
47 position as Superintendent of the Oakville High School to join the  
48 army as a cadet of the First Officers Training Camp at Leon  
49 Springs, near San Antonio; and

50 WHEREAS, After three months of intensive training he was  
51 commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry, receiving his  
52 commission a few minutes after midnight on August 14, 1917; he  
53 was assigned to duty with the Ninth Division at Camp Travis, where  
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1 he trained men until June 6, 1918, when he left with the Division  
2 for duty overseas; and

3 WHEREAS, His service with the American Expeditionary Force in  
4 England, France, Belgium, and Germany was highlighted by his part  
5 in the Saint Mihiel Offensive, when he received both machine gun  
6 and shrapnel wounds and was also gassed; after this battle he was  
7 awarded the Purple Heart; and

8 WHEREAS, A recommendation from his regimental commander that  
9 he be promoted to captain was refused by general headquarters  
10 because Jessy Gray had served less than one month as a first lieu-  
11 tenant at the time; and

12 WHEREAS, As an officer, Lieutenant Jessy F. Gray gained the  
13 respect and deep affection of his men, one of whom, Private Fred  
14 Haman, wrote a poem entitled "Our Hope," in tribute to him; and

15 WHEREAS, A sergeant in his company described him as a good  
16 man, exceptionally modest, but with a core of steel in his makeup,  
17 a sense of righteousness which forbade his temporizing with evil  
18 or shunning responsibility when faced with it; a man of integrity,  
19 whose loyalty was a matter of common knowledge; and

20 WHEREAS, The death of Jessy Franklin Gray is a great loss to  
21 Texas and to his old comrades at arms, and his former colleagues  
22 in the Texas Legislature wish to express appreciation for the life  
23 of a truly great Texan; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 61st Legis-  
25 lature, ~~the Senate concurring~~ That the Texas Legislature <sup>that the House</sup> pay  
26 tribute to the Honorable Jessy Franklin Gray, a man who was loved,  
27 respected, and admired by all who knew him; and, be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the ~~Texas Legislature~~ <sup>House of Representatives</sup> extend sympathy to his  
29 family: to his wife, Mrs. Jessy F. (Pauline) Gray, and his son,  
30 Frank Gray, Jr., both of Three Rivers; and his daughter,  
31 Mrs. Minnie Ellen Ingersoll, of Austin; and his four grandchildren,  
32 Mrs. Britton T. Edwards III, Miss Polly Gray, Miss Ellen Ingersoll,  
33 and Harold F. Ingersoll, Jr.; and, be it further

34 RESOLVED, That official copies of this Resolution be prepared  
35 for the family of the Honorable Jessy F. Gray, and that when the  
36 ~~two Houses of the Legislature~~ <sup>the House</sup> adjourn this day, they do so in  
37 memory of Jessy Franklin Gray.  
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MAY 27 1969

**Add names of all members**

*H. S. R. #491*

*Dorothy Hallman*

**Chief Clerk, House of Representatives**

2 H.S.R. No. 491 By Wittig

HOUSE SIMPLE RESOLUTION

in memory of the  
Honorable Jessy Franklin Gray.

**MAY 27 1969**

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY RISING VOTE.

*Dorothy Hallman*

Chief Clerk, House of Representatives

**MAY 27 1969**

SENT TO ENROLLING CLERK